

Preliminary Amendment

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Applicant(s): Eugene G. JOSEPH et al.

Serial No. 09/847,942

Filed: May 2, 2001

For: PRESSURE SENSITIVE ADHESIVE ARTICLE FIBERS WITH A REINFORCING MATERIAL

Conclusion

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' Representatives at the below-listed telephone number, if there are any questions regarding this Preliminary Amendment or if prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR §1.8:

The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on this 31 day of January, 2002.

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APPENDIX A - SPECIFICATION/CLAIM AMENDMENTS
INCLUDING NOTATIONS TO INDICATE CHANGES MADE

Serial No.: 09/847,942

Docket No.: 56654US002

Amendments to the following are indicated by underlining what has been added and bracketing what has been deleted. Additionally, all amendments have been marked in bold typeface.

In the Specification

The paragraph beginning at page 9, line 23, has been amended as follows:

--Preferably, such adhesive articles are tapes that include gauze pads, for example, and are used as first aid dressings (i.e., wound or surgical dressings). The adhesive articles can be in the form of a wide variety of other medical articles, such as medical tapes, athletic tapes, surgical drapes, or tapes or tabs used in adhering medical devices such as sensors, electrodes (as disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 5,215,087 (Anderson et al.), and U.S. Pat. No. 6,171,985 (Joseph et al.), for example), ostomy appliances, or the like. Adhesive articles of the present invention can also be in the form of a variety of sheeting products (e.g., decorative, reflective, and graphical), removable labels, coupons, masking tapes, tapes or tabs used in adhering diapers, packaging, food storage containers, etc. They can be used in tamper-indicating applications, particularly if upon stretching, the adhesive articles do not recover their original shape. Preferred embodiments, however, are medical articles such as those described in Applicants' Assignee's copending U.S. Patent Application[s] Serial No. 09/764540, entitled "Stretch Removable Adhesive Articles and Methods," filed on 01/17/2001 [(**Atty. Docket No. 55959USA8A**)], and **U.S. Patent Application** Serial No. [] **09/847,941**, entitled "Tapered Stretch Removable Adhesive Articles And Methods," filed on even date herewith [(**Atty. Docket No. 56703USA8A**)].--

The paragraph beginning at page 13, line 22, has been amended as follows:

--A crosslinking agent can be used if so desired to build the molecular weight and the strength of the copolymer of the adhesive component of the fibers, and hence improve the integrity and shape of the fibers. Preferably, the crosslinking agent is one that is copolymerized

with monomers A and B. The crosslinking agent may produce chemical crosslinks (e.g., covalent bonds or ionic bonds). Alternatively, it may produce thermal reversible physical crosslinks that result, for example, from the formation of reinforcing domains due to phase separation of hard segments (i.e., those having a T_g higher than room temperature, preferably higher than 70°C) and/or acid/base interactions (i.e., those involving functional groups within the same polymer or between polymers or between a polymer and an additive). Preferred crosslinking occurs through the use of macromers, such as the styrene macromers of U.S. Pat. No. 4,554,324 (Husman et al.), or polymeric ionic crosslinking as described in WO 99/42536. Suitable crosslinking agents are also disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,737,559 (Kellen et al.), 5,506,279 (Babu et al.), and 6,083,856 (Joseph et al.).--

The paragraph beginning at page 21, line 1, has been amended as follows:

-- Multicomponent fibers, if formed by the melt-blown process, can be produced as described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,176,952 (Joseph et al.); 5,232,770 (Joseph); 5,238,733 (Joseph et al.); 5,258,220 (Joseph); or 5,248,455 (Joseph et al.). Multicomponent fibers can also be produced by a spunbond process as disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,695,868 ([**McCormach**] **McCormack**); 5,336,552 (Strack et al.); 5,545,464 (Stokes); 5,382,400; 5,512,358 ([**Shawyer**]**Shawver** et al.); or 5,498,463 (McDowall et al.).--

The paragraph beginning at page 26, line 2, has been amended as follows:

-- A pressure sensitive adhesive containing minimicrofibrous reinforcing material was prepared from a mixture of 90% PSA 1 and 10% EXACT 4023. This preparation was extruded through a twin screw extruder manufactured by Brabender Corp. (BRABENDER PREP CENTER, available from C.W. Brabender Instruments, Inc., South Hackensack, NJ) and was fed to a drilled orifice melt-blown die (each hole 0.4826 mm in diameter). The die was drilled with 5.9 holes per cm (15 holes per inch) and was maintained at a temperature of 190°C. The adhesive

feeder was maintained at 190°C while the polyethylene was fed in pellet form into the extruder to maintain 10% polyethylene of the final adhesive composition. A nonwoven web with a basis weight of 75 grams per square meter (gsm or g/m²) was collected on double-coated silicone release paper (DCP-Lohja Inc., Westchester, IL) using a rotating drum collector at a collector to die distance of 17.8 cm (7 inches). --

The paragraph beginning at page 26, line 17, has been amended as follows:

-- A pressure sensitive adhesive containing minimicrofibrous reinforcing material was prepared from a mixture of 80% PSA 1 and 20% EXACT 4023. This preparation was extruded through a twin screw extruder manufactured by Brabender Corp. and was fed to a drilled orifice melt-blown die (each hole 0.4826 mm in diameter). The die was drilled with 5.9 holes per cm (15 holes per inch) and was maintained at a temperature of 190°C. The adhesive feeder was maintained at 190°C while the polyethylene was fed in pellet form into the extruder to maintain 20% polyethylene of the final adhesive composition. A nonwoven web with a basis weight of 75 gsm was collected on double-coated silicone release paper using a rotating drum collector at a collector to die distance of 17.8 cm (7 inches). --

The paragraph beginning at page 26, line 30, has been amended as follows:

-- A pressure sensitive adhesive containing minimicrofibrous reinforcing material was prepared from a mixture of 70% PSA 1 and 30% EXACT 4023. This preparation was extruded through a twin screw extruder manufactured by Brabender Corp. and was fed to a drilled orifice melt-blown die (each hole 0.4826 mm in diameter). The die was drilled with 5.9 holes per cm (15 holes per inch) and was maintained at a temperature of 190°C. The adhesive feeder was maintained at 190°C while the polyethylene was fed in pellet form into the extruder to maintain 30% polyethylene of the final adhesive composition. A nonwoven web with a basis weight of 75 gsm was collected on double-coated silicone release paper using a rotating drum collector at a collector to die distance of 17.8 cm (7 inches). --

The paragraph beginning at page 27, line 10, has been amended as follows:

-- A pressure sensitive adhesive containing minimicrofibrous reinforcing material was prepared from a mixture of 90% PSA 1 and 10% EXACT 4023. This preparation was extruded through a twin screw extruder manufactured by Brabender Corp. and was fed to a drilled orifice melt-blown die (each hole 0.4826 mm in diameter). The die was drilled with 5.9 holes per cm (15 holes per inch) and was maintained at a temperature of 190°C. The adhesive feeder was maintained at 190°C while the polyethylene was fed in pellet form into the extruder to maintain 10% polyethylene of the final adhesive composition. A nonwoven web with a basis weight of 55 gsm was collected on double-coated silicone release paper using a rotating drum collector at a collector to die distance of 17.8 cm (7 inches). --

The paragraph beginning at page 27, line 23, has been amended as follows:

-- A pressure sensitive adhesive containing minimicrofibrous reinforcing material was prepared from a mixture of 90% PSA 1 and 10% EXACT 4023. This preparation was extruded through a twin screw extruder manufactured by Brabender Corp. and was fed to a drilled orifice melt-blown die (each hole 0.4826 mm in diameter). The die was drilled with 5.9 holes per cm (15 holes per inch) and was maintained at a temperature of 190°C. The adhesive feeder was maintained at 190°C while the polyethylene was fed in pellet form into the extruder to maintain 10% polyethylene of the final adhesive composition. A nonwoven web with a basis weight of 65 gsm was collected on double-coated silicone release paper using a rotating drum collector at a collector to die distance of 17.8 cm (7 inches). --

The paragraph beginning at page 28, line 2, has been amended as follows:

-- A pressure sensitive adhesive containing minimicrofibrous reinforcing material was prepared from a mixture of 85% PSA 1 and 15% EXACT 4023. This preparation was extruded through a twin screw extruder manufactured by Brabender Corp. and was fed to a drilled orifice

melt-blown (each hole 0.4826 mm in diameter). The die was drilled with 5.9 holes per cm (15 holes per inch) and was maintained at a temperature of 190°C. The adhesive feeder was maintained at 190°C while the polyethylene was fed in pellet form into the extruder to maintain 15% polyethylene of the final adhesive composition. A nonwoven web with a basis weight of 55 gsm was collected on double-coated silicone release paper using a rotating drum collector at a collector to die distance of 17.8 cm (7 inches). --

The paragraph beginning at page 28, line 15, has been amended as follows:

-- A pressure sensitive adhesive containing minimicrofibrous reinforcing material was prepared from a mixture of 85% PSA 1 and 15% EXACT 4023. This preparation was extruded through a twin screw extruder manufactured by Brabender Corp. and was fed to a drilled orifice melt-blown die (each hole 0.4826 mm in diameter). The die was drilled with 5.9 holes per cm (15 holes per inch) and was maintained at a temperature of 190°C. The adhesive feeder was maintained at 190°C while the polyethylene was fed in pellet form into the extruder to maintain 15% polyethylene of the final adhesive composition. A nonwoven web with a basis weight of 65 gsm was collected on double-coated silicone release paper using a rotating drum collector at a collector to die distance of 17.8 cm (7 inches). --

The paragraph beginning at page 28, line 28, has been amended as follows:

-- A pressure sensitive adhesive containing minimicrofibrous reinforcing material was prepared from a mixture of 85% PSA 1 and 15% EXACT 4023. This preparation was extruded through a twin screw extruder manufactured by Brabender Corp. and was fed to a drilled orifice melt-blown die (each hole 0.4826 mm in diameter). The die was drilled with 5.9 holes per cm (15 holes per inch) and was maintained at a temperature of 190°C. The adhesive feeder was maintained at 190°C while the polyethylene was fed in pellet form into the extruder to maintain 15% polyethylene of the final adhesive composition. A nonwoven web with a basis weight 75 gsm was collected on double-coated silicone release paper using a rotating drum collector at a

collector to die distance of 17.8 cm (7 inches). --

The paragraph beginning at page 29, line 7, has been amended as follows:

-- A pressure sensitive adhesive containing minimicrofibrous reinforcing material was prepared from a mixture of 90% PSA 1 and 10% EXACT 3040. This preparation was extruded through a twin screw extruder manufactured by Brabender Corp. and was fed to a drilled orifice melt-blown die (each hole 0.4826 mm in diameter). The die was drilled with 5.9 holes per cm (15 holes per inch) and was maintained at a temperature of 190°C. The adhesive feeder was maintained at 190°C while the polyethylene was fed in pellet form into the extruder to maintain 10% polyethylene of the final adhesive composition. A nonwoven web with a basis weight of 55 gsm was collected on double-coated silicone release paper using a rotating drum collector at a collector to die distance of 17.8 cm (7 inches). --

The paragraph beginning at page 29, line 20, has been amended as follows:

-- A pressure sensitive adhesive containing minimicrofibrous reinforcing material was prepared from a mixture of 90% PSA 1 and 10% EXACT 3040. This preparation was extruded through a twin screw extruder manufactured by Brabender Corp. and was fed to a drilled orifice melt-blown die (each hole 0.4826 mm in diameter). The die was drilled with 5.9 holes per cm (15 holes per inch) and was maintained at a temperature of 190°C. The adhesive feeder was maintained at 190°C while the polyethylene was fed in pellet form into the extruder to maintain 10% polyethylene of the final adhesive composition. A nonwoven web with a basis weight of 65 gsm was collected on double-coated silicone release paper using a rotating drum collector at a collector to die distance of 17.8 cm (7 inches). --

The paragraph beginning at page 29, line 33, has been amended as follows:

-- A pressure sensitive adhesive containing minimicrofibrous reinforcing material was prepared from a mixture of 83% PSA 1 and 17% EXACT 3040. This preparation was extruded

through a twin screw extruder manufactured by Brabender Corp. and was fed to a drilled orifice melt-blown die each (each hole 0.4826 mm in diameter). The die was drilled with 5.9 holes per cm (15 holes per inch) and was maintained at a temperature of 190°C. The adhesive feeder was maintained at 190°C while the polyethylene was fed in pellet form into the extruder to maintain 17% polyethylene of the final adhesive composition. A nonwoven web with a basis weight of 55 gsm was collected on double-coated silicone release paper using a rotating drum collector at a collector to die distance of 17.8 cm (7 inches). --

The paragraph beginning at page 30, line 12, has been amended as follows:

-- A pressure sensitive adhesive containing minimicrofibrous reinforcing material was prepared from a mixture of 83% PSA 1 and 17% EXACT 3040. This preparation was extruded through a twin screw extruder manufactured by Brabender Corp. and was fed to a drilled orifice melt-blown die (each hole 0.4826 mm in diameter). The die was drilled with 5.9 holes per cm (15 holes per inch) and was maintained at a temperature of 190°C. The adhesive feeder was maintained at 190°C while the polyethylene was fed in pellet form into the extruder to maintain 17% polyethylene of the final adhesive composition. A nonwoven web with a basis weight of 75 gsm was collected on double-coated silicone release paper using a rotating drum collector at a collector to die distance of 17.8 cm (7 inches). --

The paragraph beginning at page 30, line 25, has been amended as follows:

-- A pressure sensitive adhesive containing minimicrofibrous reinforcing material was prepared from a mixture of 75% PSA 1 and 25% EXACT 3040. This preparation was extruded through a twin screw extruder manufactured by Brabender Corp. and was fed to a drilled orifice melt-blown die (each hole 0.4826 mm in diameter). The die was drilled with 5.9 holes per cm (15 holes per inch) and was maintained at a temperature of 190°C. The adhesive feeder was maintained at 190°C while the polyethylene was fed in pellet form into the extruder to maintain 25% polyethylene of the final adhesive composition. A nonwoven web with a basis weight of 55

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gsm was collected on double-coated silicone release paper using a rotating drum collector at a collector to die distance of 17.8 cm (7 inches). --

The paragraph beginning at page 31, line 5, has been amended as follows:

-- A pressure sensitive adhesive containing minimicrofibrous reinforcing material was prepared from a mixture of 75% PSA 1 and 25% EXACT 3040. This preparation was extruded through a twin screw extruder manufactured by Brabender Corp. and was fed to a drilled orifice melt-blown die (each hole 0.4826 mm in diameter). The die was drilled with 5.9 holes per cm (15 holes per inch) and was maintained at a temperature of 190°C. The adhesive feeder was maintained at 190°C while the polyethylene was fed in pellet form into the extruder to maintain 25% polyethylene of the final adhesive composition. A nonwoven web with a basis weight of 75 gsm was collected on double-coated silicone release paper using a rotating drum collector at a collector to die distance of 17.8 cm (7 inches). --